

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 CU-04
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O R 121110Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8288
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMA KO 0144

DEPT AF/W ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV ML
SUBJECT: CHANGES IN MALIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: BAMA KO 0097

1. SUMMARY: NEW MALIAN MINISTERIAL LINEUP BROADENS
PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBER-
ATION (CMLN) IN DAILY PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTRATION. FORMER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MAY HAVE STEPPED ASIDE
TO ASSUME ROLE IN NEW NATIONAL PARTY. GOVERNMENT NOW
HAS STRONG MAN IN CHARGE OF EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCED
BUREAUCRAT OVERSEEING RURAL DEVELOPMENT. SUITABILITY
OF OTHER APPOINTMENTS IS YET TO BE PROVED. END SUMMARY.
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2. EX-MINISTERS. ALL OUT-GOING MINISTER HAD BEEN
FEATURED IN RUMORS REGARDING MINISTERIAL CHANGES OVER
RECENT MONTHS. (77 BAMA KO 0063). THE MINISTERS OF
HEALTH, YOUTH, AND NATIONAL EDUCATION WERE MEN OF
MEDIocre TALENT IN IMPOSSIBLY DIFFICULT JOBS. MINIS-
TER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, MOUSTAPHA SOUMARE, UNDOUBTEDLY

DREW CURTAINS ON HIS CAREER WITH INEPT HANDLING OF STUDENT CRISIS LAST SPRING. MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MAMADI KEITA, FAILED TO RATIONALIZE MALI'S VAST HEALTH SYSTEM OR MAKE SOCIAL AFFAIRS ANYTHING MORE THAN MORIBUND BUREAUCRACY. MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ART, AND CULTURE, MAHAMABE TOURE, AFFABLE TEACHER SURROUNDED BY LACKLUSTER MIDDLE-AGED CIVIL SERVANTS, WAS NOT UP TO TASK OF FORGING MALI'S RESTLESS YOUTH INTO NATION-WIDE MOVEMENT AND CORNERSTONE OF NEW NATIONAL PARTY, DEMOCRATIC UNION OF MALIAN PEOPLE (UDPM). HOWEVER, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SORY COULIBALY, WAS MINISTR DELEGATE TO RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE, TITLE HE CARRIED THROUGH SUCCESSIVE POSITIONS AS FOREIGN MINISTER. MINISTER OF LABOR, AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED ONE OF PRESIDENT TRAORE'S CLOSEST ADVISORS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE IS BEING RETIRED AS SCAPEGOAT FOR POOR MARKETING OF LAST YEAR'S HARVEST AND FOOD CRISIS THIS YEAR. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE IS STEPPING OUT OF GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE FOR SOME FUTURE ROLE IN PARTY OR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

4. NEW MINISTERS. THE CMLN HAS ADDED BOTH ITS MOST PROMINENT AND MOST RETICENT PERSONALITIES TO LIST OF ITS MEMBERS SERVING AS MINISTERS. NEW MINISTER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL EDUCATION YOUSOUF TRAORE IS CONSIDERED CMLN LEADER WHOSE PROMINENCE HAD NOT DIMINISHED DESPITE HIS EXCLUSION FROM 1975 CABINET. AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION FROM 1970-1975, TRAORE WAS DECISIVE THOUGH NOT ALWAYS COOPERATIVE WITH THIS EMBASSY. OFFICIAL LIST OF NEW CABINET RANKS NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION RIGHT AFTER VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF PLAN BABA DIARRA. CMLN NOW HAS ONE OF ITS STRONG MEN IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND, AS BONUS, HAS REPRESENTATIVE IN GOVERNMENT OF CENTRAL MALIAN AREA OF SAN, TRAORE'S HOME TOWN.

5. MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MISSA KONE, IN CONTRAST, IS ONLY ONE OF THREE MEMBERS OF CMLN WHO HAS NEVER HELD MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO (THE OTHER ARE FILIFING SISSOKO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CMLN AND CHIEF OF PRESIDENTIAL CABINET, AND TIEKORO BAGA-YOKO, CHIEF OF SECURITY). LEAST KNOWN OF ALL CMLN MEMBERS, KONE WAS THOUGH TO BE AN HONEST BUT INEFFECTUAL LIGHWEIGHT, BUT, IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR BYRNE, HE DEMONSTRATED GOOD COMPREHENSION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BAMA KO 0144

DEPT AF/W ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

6. APPOINTMENT OF KONE AND TRAORE INCREASES THE #MLN'S INVOLVEMENT IN DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATION AND, OSTENSIBLY, BROADENS SUPPORT WITHIN CMLN FOR PRESIDENT TRAORE'S POLICIES. HAVING YOUSSEUF TRAORE AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION NOT ONLY SERVES TO KEEP STUDENTS IN LINE, BUT ALSO PUTS POTENTIAL OPPONENT IN CMLN ON PRESIDENT'S TEAM.

7. OF NEW CIVILIAN MINISTERS, MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ART, AND CULTURE, ALIOU BLONDIN BEYE, IS PROBABLY MOST COMPETENT. BEYE COMES FROM PROMINENT SENEGALESE FAMILY NOW THREE GENERATIONS RESIDENT IN MALI. BROTHER ALASSANE IS SOLICITOR GENERAL OF APPEALS COURT. BEYE'S WIFE KADIOTOU, DIRECTOR GEN-
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ERAL OF MALI LAIT (STATE DAIRY), IS HIGHEST RANKING WOMAN IN MALIAN ADMINISTRATION. IN RECENT CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL DEPARTMENT, BEYE TRAVELED ABROAD EXTENSIVELY AS CHIEF ADVISOR TO MINISTERIAL MISSIONS. KNOWN TO BE ENERGETIC, BRIGHT, AND HARD-HEADED, BEYE WILL HAVE VAST AND DELICATE TASK IN ORGANIZING NEW NATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENT.

8. MOHAMED AG HAMAMI IS PROMINENT TOMACHEK (TUAREG) AND SONE OF TOMACHEK KING WHO PARTICIPATED IN REBEL-LION AGAINST CENTRAL MALIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1963. AG HAMANI MOVED UP IN LAST TWO YEARS FROM STATISTICIAN TO COUNSELOR IN MINISTRY OF PLAN WHERE HIS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE UNDOUBTEDLY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF VICE PRESIDENT. HIS APPOINTMENT IS ALSO OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO BROADEN POLITICAL BASE AND BALANCE ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

9. RECYCLED MINISTERS. SEKOU SANGARE, WHO CAME TO HIS POST AS MINISTER FOR STATE ENTERPRICES WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN CENTRAL BANK AND PRESIDENCY, FAILED UTTERLY TO ESTABLISH STATE ENTERPRISES ON RATIONAL FOOTING. HE IS BEING SHIFTED TO LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE, AN ESSENTIALLY STATIC JOB GIVEN CURRENT RESTRAINTS ON WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT.

10. IN HIS FORMER POSITION AS MINISTER OF LABOR, ASSIMI DIAWARA WAS NOT PARTICULARLY DISTINGUISHED BUT DID SUCCESSFULLY SHEPHERD IN NEW CIVIL SERVICE STATUTE. WITH TWO SUCCESSIVE MINISTERIAL POSITIONS BEHIND HIM, DIAWARA GOES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT AS EXPERIENCED BUREAUCRAT, ALBEIT WITH NO TECHNICAL BACKGROUND IN DEVELOPMENT. HIS COLLEAGUES CONSIDER CONFIDENTIAL

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DIAWARE BRILLIANT.

11. CONCLUSION. POLITICAL REASONS FOR MINISTERIAL CHANGES ARE FAIRLY OBVIOUS: BROADER PARTICIPATION OF CMLN DURING CRITICAL TRANSITION TO NEW CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER, NEW FACES FOR DIFFICULT MINISTERIAL POSITIONS, A MILITARY STRONG MAN FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION, AND BROADER REGIONAL AND ETHNIC REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THESE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BROUGHT TO GOVERNMENT MEN WHOSE TALENTS MATCH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.
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